

News Release

USDA Forest Service

Kaibab National Forest

www.fs.fed.us/r3/kai



For Immediate Release

April 28, 2006

Contact: Scott Clemans

(435) 865-3744

(928) 643-8172

NORTH KAIBAB RANGER DISTRICT TO CONDUCT PRESCRIBED BURNING IN MAY

Burn plans include area along highway to North Rim of Grand Canyon

FREDONIA, Ariz. – The North Kaibab Ranger District plans to conduct prescribed burning of up to 3,000 acres in May and early June in three different areas. Operations could start as early as May 8 if fuel and weather conditions enter prescribed ranges for meeting resource objectives and safety requirements.

Of most immediate impact to district visitors, fire managers intend to burn about 450 acres in the Jack Jolly area, located along the east side of Arizona State Highway 67 between Forest Road 200 in the north and Forest Road 205 in the south.

Prevailing winds should generally push smoke away from the highway, but motorists traveling to the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park should watch for fire crews and equipment operating along the road.

Fire crews will also burn about 650 acres in the Burnt Saddle area in the southwest part of the district. The area is located along the west side of Forest Road 22 between Forest Road 425 to the north and Forest Road 440 to the south.

Smoke and fire crew activity may affect visitors traveling on Forest Road 22 in the Lookout and Pratt Canyon areas, as well as those using Forest Road 425 to reach the Grand Canyon viewpoints at Big Saddle and Crazy Jug Points.

Finally, Forest Service fire management crews plan to burn about 1,900 acres in the Holy Hollow area in the southwest part of the district, west of Forest Road 250 between Forest Road 272 to the north and Forest Road 214 to the south.

Smoke and fire crew activity may affect visitors traveling on Forest Roads 272 and 214 to reach Big Saddle, Crazy Jug and Parissawampitts Points.

Fire crews will actively manage and monitor the prescribed fires throughout these operations and work to minimize the effects of smoke, but forest visitors are urged to drive with care. Crews will post signs along roads bordering and passing through the burn units.

Fire crews from Grand Canyon National Park and other federal and state agencies will assist Kaibab National Forest firefighters in igniting, managing and monitoring these prescribed fires.

Historically, fire has been an essential component of forest ecosystems. Many native plant and animal species depend on fire to create essential conditions for them to thrive and flourish. Prescribed fire is a tool used by foresters to re-introduce fire into these ecosystems, which have been unnaturally altered by 100 years of intensive fire suppression.

Following these three prescribed burns, North Kaibab Ranger District fire managers will continue to monitor forest and weather conditions and identify other opportunities to conduct prescribed burning and manage naturally-caused fires for resource benefit.

For the latest information about these prescribed fires, call the North Kaibab Ranger District at (928) 643-7395.

-USFS-